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Message Text

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43
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

SCCT-01 MC-02 ACDA-10 PC-05 IO-11 ARAE-00 /101 W
---------- 063369
P R 121923Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 441
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USCINCSO

UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 0120

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, UY
SUBJECT: TERRORISTS HIT RESORT AREA

REF: 75 MONTEVIDEO 4438 (NOTAL) (DTG 302201Z DEC 75)

1. A SERIES OF TERRORIST BOMBINGS TOOK PLACE EARLY ON JANUARY 11 IN PUNTA DEL ESTE, A LUXURY SUMMER RESORT FREQUENTED PRINCIPALLY BY URUGUAYAN, ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN TOURISTS. WHILE WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THESE EVENTS, USIS SOURCES REPORT THAT BOMBS WERE DETONATED IN A NIGHT CLUB, A HOTEL, POSSIBLY AT THE FAMOUS SAN RAFAEL CASINO-HOTEL AND SOMEHWERE IN THE PORT AREA. AN EMBOFF IN THE AREA AT THE TIME HEARD AN EXPLOSION AT ABOUT 1:30 A.M. SUNDAY MORNING AND LATER WAS TOLD THAT AN ARGENTINE YACHT HAD BEEN BOMBED, BUT WE HAVE NO COMFIRMATION. WE UNDERSTAND TWO PERSONS WERE SERIOUSLY INJURED IN THE ATTACKES. A SON OF PRESIDENT BORDABERRY REPORTEDLY WAS IN THE NIGHT CLUB WHICH WAS BOMBED, BUT WAS UNINJURED. THE PRESIDENT WAS IN PUNTA DEL ESTE OVER THE WEEKEND BUT EVIDENTLY WAS NOT A TARGET OF THE ATTACKS.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE BOMBINGS IS UNKNOWN BUT POLICE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE RELATED TO THE RECENT PUBLICITY OVER THE
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DISCOVERY OF THE PCU MILITARY APPARATUS. ON THE EVENING OF JAN-

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UARY 10, THE JOINT FORCES (FUERZAS CONJUNTAS) HAD CONDUCTED A NATIONWIDE TV "SPECIAL" IN WHICH THREE, PERSONS, DETAINED FOR THEIR ACTIVITY IN THE APPARATUS, TRIED TO EXPLAIN HOW THEY WERE TRICKED INTO SUPPORTING PCU MILITARY OPERATIONS. THIS "SPECIAL" WAS WIDELY PUBLICIZED PRIOR TO THE EVENT. EL PAIS, THE CONSERVATIVE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY WHICH HAS BEEN MOST AVID IN ITS ANTI-COMMUNIST STATEMENTS, PROMISED WIDE COVERAGE OF THE TV SHOW IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION. THERE ARE BUSINESS CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE MANAGEMENT OF EL PAIS AND THE NIGHT CLUB WHICH WAS BOMBED, WHICH LENDS CREDENCE TO SPECULATION THAT THERE WAS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PUBLICITY ON THE DISCOVERY OF THE MILITARY APPARATUS AND THE BOMBINGS. AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, THIS IS ONLY CONJECTURE. REGARDLESS OF THE MOTIVE, AFTER 2-1/2 YEARS OF CALM URUGUAY ONCE AGAIN HAS WITNESSED THE EXPLOSION OF TERRORISTS' BOMBS.

3. TIGHTENED SECURITY WAS EVIDENT SUNDAY IN PUNTA DEL ESTE AND ON ROADS LEADING FROM THE AREA. NUMEROUS ROADBLOCKS WERE SET UP ALONG HIGHWAYS LEADING OUT OF THE RESORT AND VEHICLES, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC, WERE BEING SEARCHED. NO SPECIAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN NOTED HERE IN THE CAPITAL.

4. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION OF THE BOMBINGS, OR A BAZOOKA ATTACK WHICH IS RUMORED TO HAVE ACCOMPANIED THEM, IN ANY OF THE URUGUAYAN MEDIA.
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Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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